## REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, replacement formal drawings have been provided for Figures 5 and 11. With regard to Figure 5, this replacement formal drawing identifies Figures --5(a), 5(b), 5(c) and 5(d)--, and the replacement formal drawing for Figure 11 identifies this figure as --Prior Art--.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make editorial changes thereto and generally improve the form thereof, and a substitute specification and abstract are provided. No new matter has been added by the substitute specification and abstract.

The instant invention pertains to a gasket for providing a sealing arrangement between an intake manifold and a head member of an engine, for example. Such a gasket is known in the art, but suffers from drawbacks as expressed on pages 1-5 of the original specification. Applicants have addressed and resolved these drawbacks by providing a unique gasket.

Specifically, with reference to the figures for example, the gasket 4 is to be mounted within a groove 21 in one member 2 so as to provide a sealing arrangement between this member and another member 3 when these members are fastened to each other. The gasket comprises a main body having a sectional shape corresponding to a sectional shape of the groove, with a ratio (H/W) between a height (H) of the main body in a depth direction of the groove and a width (W) of the main body in a width direction of the groove being 0.8 to 5.0. Large projecting portions (42-102) and small projecting portions (41-111) are provided on the main body. Each of the large projecting portions is formed from projections (42a, 42b...) projecting from opposite side faces of the main body that are to face opposite inner wall faces of the groove, and each of the small projecting portions is formed from projections (41a, 41b...) projecting from opposite side faces of the main body that are to face the opposite inner wall faces of the groove. Adjacent ones of large projecting portions in a longitudinal direction of the main body are disposed at intervals of 30 to 100mm, and a width of each of the large projecting portions in the width direction of the groove is larger than a dimension of the groove in the width dimension thereof by 0.01mm to 0.9mm. Adjacent ones of the small projecting portions adjacent, or respective adjacent ones of the small projections portions and the large projecting portions, in the longitudinal direction of the main body are disposed at intervals of 5 to 15

mm, and a width of each of the small projecting portions in the width direction of the groove is smaller than the dimension of the groove in the width dimension thereof by 0.01mm to 0.6mm such that when the gasket is received within the groove, and prior to the gasket being deformed upon the one member being fastened to the other member, no portion of each of the small projecting portions is in contact with the opposite inner wall faces of the groove. And, a filling rate of the groove by the gasket when the one member and the another member are fastened to each other is 80 to 100%. Claim 1 is believed to be representative of the inventive gasket.

The significance of the configuration of the gasket as described above, and recited in claim 1, is that such a configuration reduces risks of poor sealing caused by falling of the gasket from the groove or displacement of an inserted portion of the gasket during performance of a mounting operation and a tightening operation. Specifically, by having the small projecting portions be dimensioned as described and claimed, it is possible to effectively prevent generation of a lateral drift or falling of the gasket during the tightening operation. The intervals between the projections as claimed aid in effectively preventing the lateral drift and falling of the gasket during the tightening operation, as well as enable the gasket to be in uniform contact with a bottom face and the opposite inner wall faces of the groove and the another member, while the gasket exerts its elasticity so as to obtain a high sealing force.

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP '395. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 has been amended so as to more clearly distinguish this claim from JP '395. In this regard, claim 1 now further defines the relationship between the small projecting portions and the groove within which the small projecting portions are to be received. Specifically, claim 1 now recites *inter alia*

> when the gasket is received within the groove, and prior to the gasket being deformed upon the one member being fastened to the another member, no portion of each of said small projecting portions is in contact with the opposite inner wall faces of the groove.

Such a relationship is not taught or suggested by JP '395.

In this regard, in reading claim 1 on JP '395, the Examiner has equated reference numeral "4" with the claimed small projecting portions, and reference numeral "8" with the claimed large projecting portions. However, as shown in Figure 6 of JP '395, when the small projecting portions 4 are received within the groove and prior to the gasket being deformed by member 20, though portions of the small projecting portions 4 at ends thereof are not in contact with inner wall surfaces of the groove, at a central portion of the small projecting portions contact exists between this portion and the wall surfaces of the groove. Thus, because contact exists between the small projecting portions and the wall surfaces of the groove in JP '395 prior to deformation of the gasket, the gasket as recited in claim 1 is not taught or suggested by JP '395.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is not obvious over JP '395, whereby claims 1-6 are allowable, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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***AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:***

***Formal Drawings for Figures 5(a)-5(d) and 11 have been filed concurrently.***